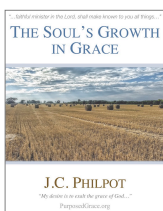


SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

August 5th, 2018

“Heal me, O LORD, and I
shall be healed; save me,
and I shall be saved: for
THOU art my praise”
(JEREMIAH 17:14)



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Sunday School 10:00 am

Sunday Worship 11:00 am

Wednesday Worship 7:00 pm

Nursery

Nursery available for 4 years old and younger

Happy Birthday!

Angela Church - 3rd, Troy Church - 5th

**This evening's podcast will be from PASTOR DAVID PLEDGER
2 CORINTHIANS 3:9 — TWO MINISTERS, DOCTOR LAW & DOCTOR GRACE**

Recorded on Sunday morning, April 29th, 2018

To find our podcast search for the keyword **PurposedGrace** on



Apple's **Podcast App** or



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HE IS PRECIOUS

“UNTO YOU THEREFORE WHICH BELIEVE HE IS PRECIOUS...”

(1 PETER 2:7)

[Beloved,] the word “*precious*” has a stronger meaning than appears upon its surface; it is really *unto you which believe He is preciousness*, or all-precious. Christ is a sun which ever shines; a garden which is always full of flowers and fruits; a hive ever full of honey; a fountain which is always full; a brook which never dries; a rose that always blooms. He is an ocean of sweetness without a drop of gall. Unto the child of God, a personal living Christ is most dear. He is not satisfied with a mere love to Christ’s doctrine, Christ’s promises, or Christ’s gifts, his affections entwine themselves round about His person. [The Lord] Jesus is to him his brother, friend, companion, the one with whom he walks and talks. How sad it is that so many fall short of this experience; their religion is entered more in a code of rules and collections of doctrines, than in the person of the dear Redeemer; they scarcely ever reach to the height of John’s felicity, and let their head fall upon their Savior’s bosom; but if we are ever to attain to any high degree of spirituality of mind, or revel in any deep spiritual joy, it will only be as our religion gets more and more incarnated [embodied] in Christ; true growth in grace consists of a personal Saviour growing increasingly precious.

Yes, *unto you which believe* the Lord Jesus *is precious*. Not only His house, for it is quite possible to like a person’s house exceedingly, and yet have no particular love to the owner of that house. Not only

His book, for there are many books you may enjoy in the reading, and yet have neither knowledge of, nor affection to, the author. Not only His gifts, for how many there are who while they value a man's gifts, despise him in their heart; but He himself, apart from all He gives, will be thy heart's dearest love.

*My God, I love Thee; not because I hope for heaven thereby,
Nor yet because [they] who love Thee not Must burn eternally.
Not with the hope of gaining [anything], Nor seeking a reward;
But as thyself hast loved me, O ever-loving Lord.*

PASTOR **ARCHIBALD BROWN**

O LORD, "WHOM HAVE I IN HEAVEN BUT THEE? AND THERE IS NONE UPON EARTH THAT I DESIRE BESIDE THEE." (PSALM 73:25)

GRACE SAVES!

"EVEN WHEN WE WERE DEAD IN SINS, [GOD] HATH QUICKENED US TOGETHER WITH CHRIST, (BY GRACE YE ARE SAVED)"

(EPHESIANS 2:5)

Anytime a preacher presents the grace of God as an offer on God's part to anybody who is willing to receive it, he has not preached grace as the Bible does. The Bible does not say, "But God, who is rich in mercy for His great love where with He loved us, even when we were dead in sins has offered us His grace"...it says God hath "*quicken'd us together with Christ, by grace are ye saved.*" Grace is not offered; grace is given! And when grace is given, it always saves and is always received! We do not have a choice as to whether or not we will accept God's offer of grace. Grace saves! Grace is not something we use to aid in our salvation—Grace saves us!

PASTOR **TODD NIBERT**

ASSURANCE & PEACE

"FOR I AM THE LORD, I CHANGE NOT;
THEREFORE YE SONS OF JACOB ARE NOT CONSUMED."

(MALACHI 3:6)

"For I am the LORD, I change not." God is unchangeable in His essence, nature, and perfections. Isn't it wonderful that in our experience in a life that is nothing but change, to know that the Lord changes not? That His purpose has never altered and never will. This gives assurance and peace to all who have fled to Christ for refuge.

PASTOR **DAVID PLEDGER**

WILT THOU BE MADE WHOLE?

“WHEN JESUS SAW HIM LIE, AND KNEW THAT HE HAD BEEN NOW A LONG TIME IN THAT CASE, HE SAITH UNTO HIM, WILT THOU BE MADE WHOLE?”

(JOHN 5:6)

Beloved, notice how our Lord puts this question to a certain, *particular* man. The Lord Jesus Christ does not put this question universally to every man in a general way, but rather to each of His people—particularly and separately. Indeed, our blessed Redeemer takes His blessed sheep aside and says to them, *one by one* “*Wilt Thou Be Made Whole?*” (JOHN 5:6).

Is the reader *one* of them? Are you *one*, who when you look back on the past, grieves to think upon all the forsaken opportunities of not gathering with Christ and His beloved people? Do you grieve of all the heartless prayers, warnings ignored? Do you grieve the many kind doors of God’s good providence to you, left unopened? Is your case hopeless? In no wise, if the *reader* is an evil sinner alike with the *writer*.

Reader, are you a sinner? Then our Lord speaks once more with a voice of tender kindness and mercy, even to such a one as evil as you, saying “*Wilt thou be made whole?*” [MATTHEW 7:11, LUKE 11:13].

Friend, our Lord’s saving arms are ever open to sinners. If you are indeed a sinner, He will make you willing in the day of His power. And oh how I pray that day is today; may He make you willing to come to Him for all of your salvation, “*He saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation!*” (2 CORINTHIANS 6:2).

Reader, no one can ever say that it’s a Sovereign Saviour who rejects the sinner, rather, it’s the self-righteous pretender who rejects the only Saviour there is for sinners. You see, our Lord Jesus came into the world to save sinners, and if you’ll not be saved—it is for only one reason, you are not one of His sheep. Our Lord tells us plainly that those who do not believe are among those He *did not* come to give His life for. I pray dear reader, you are among those who will be made to hear His well pleasing voice. He says “*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me—I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish!*” (JOHN 10:25-27)

Reader, can you hear His voice? May the Saviour’s kind gracious words now reach your ears and heart. When you go home, take the Word you have heard from the Lord Jesus Christ and beg the Father to open your heart, that you may receive His Holy Spirit. May that short prayer from Jeremiah be your *answer* to our Lord’s *question*, *wilt thou be made whole?*—Lord Jesus, *heal me and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved.* [JEREMIAH 17:14] AMEN!

PASTOR